

The Reversed Trench Pine Knob Battle

Constructed and manned by Confederate infantry on June 15, 1864 the location of this trench enabled the southerners to deliver a deadly flank fire into the right of Geary's division (20th Army Corps) as it approached the principal line of Confederate defense near what is now the intersection of Hamilton and Kennesaw-Due West roads. Later, arrival of Williams' Federal division in this vicinity forced the Confederates to abandon the trench. During the night the Federals were busy "reversing" a portion of the trench. By morning the trench faced south toward the Confederate main line.

Text written by Dr. Phil Secrist

References and footnotes provided by Barbara Flack, April 22, 2007

Sources – The Reversed Trench

Beach, John N. *History of the Fortieth Ohio Volunteer Infantry*. London, OH: Shepherd & Craig Printers, 1884. (Microfiche project of University Publications of America, Bethesda, MD, 1993. Copy on file at the Woodruff Library, Emory University.)

Bearss, Edwin C. Troup Movement Map, Sheet III-B for June 15-18, 1864, overlay plus base map. Drawn in approximately 1964. (On file at the Kennesaw Mountain National Battlefield Park Research Library. All other information obtained from this research library will be designated with the letters “KMNDP”.)

Kerksis, Sydney C., compiler. *The Atlanta Papers*. Dayton, OH: Press of Morningside Bookshop, 1980.

Philip Secrist, telephone conversation with Barbara Flack March 5, 2007.

U.S. War Department. *The War of the Rebellion, A compilation of the official records of the union and Confederate armies*. Series I, Volume XXXVIII. Washington: Government Printing Office, 1891. (Information obtained from this source will have the designation of “OR”.)

Willie Johnson (Interpretive Ranger at Kennesaw Mountain National Battlefield Park), conversation with Barbara Flack at the research library, April 11, 2007.

The Reversed Trench Pine Knob Battle

Constructed and manned by Confederate infantry¹ on June 15, 1864² the location of this trench enabled the southerners to deliver a deadly flank fire into the right of Geary's division (20th Army Corps)³ as it approached the principal line of Confederate defense⁴ near what is now the intersection of Hamilton and Kennesaw-Due West roads.⁵ Later, arrival of Williams' Federal division in this vicinity forced the Confederates to abandon the trench.⁶ During the night the Federals were busy "reversing" a portion of the trench.⁷ By morning the trench faced south toward the Confederate main line⁸.

¹ OR, Part II, 31 documented Geary "engaged the enemy in his works" and described that the enemy subsequently abandoned his works. This supports the notion that the Confederates originally constructed said works.

² Beach, 73.

³ Beach, 73 referred to Geary's division being forced to retire with a loss of several hundred men; Kerksis, 838, 842 commented on Geary's heavy casualties.

⁴ Beach, 73.

⁵ This is supported by the Bearss Troup Movement map. Also, see final footnote.

⁶ OR, Part II, 31.

⁷ I was not able to substantiate through written sources that this activity took place. But this notion is supported by the fact that the Confederates abandoned it (footnote 1), and its remains face south (final footnote).

⁸ Both Secrist (conversation) and Johnson reported that the remains of the trench at the location specified in the text face south.